

Comment on the proposed conservation of the specific name of *Curculio assimilis* Paykull, 1792 (currently *Ceutorhynchus assimilis*; Insecta, Coleoptera)
(Case 3298; see BZN 63: 31–32)

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As a researcher and co-ordinator of a major European project focusing on this major pest of oilseed rape, I support this application to conserve the specific name of *Curculio assimilis* Paykull, 1792 (currently *Ceutorhynchus assimilis*).

The cabbage seed weevil, for which the name *Ceutorhynchus assimilis* is in prevailing use, is a major economic pest of oilseed rape and other cruciferous crops in Europe, Australasia and North America. It has been the subject of strategic and applied research since the beginning of the last century and a considerable literature using *Ceutorhynchus assimilis* as its specific name has accumulated. A change in name for this insect to *Ceutorhynchus obstrictus*, as used incorrectly by Colonnelli (1993) for the reasons given by Alford (2006), would lead to considerable confusion among readers of this literature.

As a researcher, I have studied the pests of oilseed rape continuously since 1972, and to date have published 76 papers which include work on the cabbage seed weevil, referring to it by the specific name *Ceutorhynchus assimilis* (a list of these publications is held by the Commission Secretariat).

As an 'expert' on the pests of oilseed rape, I was asked earlier this year to revise the database for the cabbage seed weevil (as *Ceutorhynchus assimilis*) for the Crop Protection Compendium, published by CAB International. My revision collated information from 116 publications on the cabbage seed weevil, all as *Ceutorhynchus assimilis* (a list of these publications is held by the Commission Secretariat).

A major recent landmark in the study of oilseed rape pests has been the publication of the book 'Biocontrol of Oilseed Rape Pests' (Alford, 2003). This is a multi-author volume with contributions from 15 currently active European researchers. It has several chapters specifically on biocontrol of cabbage seed weevil. Authors agreed that, for this monograph, 'the name *Ceutorhynchus assimilis* is maintained for the cabbage seed weevil . . . as there would appear no good reason to adopt *obstrictus*' and 'the confusion generated by so doing would be enormous' (Alford, 2003, p. 15).

The practice of maintaining the name *Ceutorhynchus assimilis* for the cabbage seed weevil was continued by agreement of partners for the EU-funded project MASTER 'MANagement STRategies for European Rape pests' QLK5-CT-2001-01447 (2001–2006), of which I was Scientific Coordinator (Williams et al., 2005). This project had partners from six EU countries, namely Estonia, Finland, Germany, Poland, Sweden and the UK. The main objective of the project was to construct, develop, evaluate and promote an Integrated Pest Management System for the European winter oilseed rape crop that integrates and maximises biological control of six target pests by their key natural enemies, while minimising pesticide use. MASTER targeted six major pests of winter oilseed rape in Europe, including the cabbage seed weevil. A total of 166 scientific papers have been published or are in

press from the project to date, with more to come. Many of these focus on or refer to the cabbage seed weevil, using the specific name *Ceutorhynchus assimilis*. The publications are listed on the project website (<http://www.rothamsted.bbsrc.ac.uk/pie/master/master.htm>).

Results from the project MASTER have been widely disseminated at major international and national meetings during the course of the project and at the International Symposium 'Integrated Pest Management in Oilseed Rape' held at Göttingen, Germany, during 3–5 April 2006. The symposium was attended by 90 delegates from 15 European countries as well as from Canada, China and Israel. Many of the papers focussed on the cabbage seed weevil. Editorial policy was to use *Ceutorhynchus assimilis* as its specific name.

Additional reference

Williams, I.H., Büchs, W., Hokkanen, H., Menzler-Hokkanen, I., Johnen, A., Klukowski, Z., Luik, A., Nilsson, C. & Ulber, B. 2005. MASTER—Integrating biological control within IPM for winter oilseed rape across Europe. Pp. 301–308 in: *Proceedings of the BCPC International Congress, Crop Science & Technology, Glasgow, 31 October—2 November 2005*.

Comment on the proposed fixation of the feminine gender of the genus *Trachys* Fabricius, 1801 (Insecta, Coleoptera) and the form of derivation of family-group names based on *Trachys*

(Case 3335; see BZN 63: 172–176)

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The request to fix the gender of *Trachys* Fabricius, 1801 goes beyond simply according the assumed opinion of the original author permanence. In addition to *Trachys*, the following genus-group names in BUPRESTIDAE have the same ending: *Brachys* Dejean, 1833, *Enbrachys* Fisher, 1935, *Neotrachys* Obenberger, 1923, *Taphrocerus* (*Parabrachys*) Cobos, 1979 and *Paratrachys* Saunders, 1873. Additionally, the family-group name BRACHYINA Cobos, 1979 would have to be altered to be consistent if TRACHYINI was altered to TRACHYDINI.

According to H. Don Cameron, Department of Classical Studies, University of Michigan, *Trachys* is a masculine stem adjective. The genitive case is *Trachyos*. The Code (Article 29) specifies that family names are formed by adding 'idae' to the stem of the type genus. Article 29.3.1 specifies that 'the stem is found by deleting the case ending of the appropriate genitive singular'. The genitive singular is *Trachyos*, the case ending is *-os*, so the stem is *Trachy-* and the correct family name is TRACHYIDAE. Thus TRACHYINI and TRACHYINA are the correct spellings for tribe and subtribe, respectively. The past uses of TRACHINI and TRACHYDINI are incorrect.

I believe that if *Trachys* is fixed as feminine in gender and the spellings of the family-group names are altered in alignment with such a decision, we risk confusing current and future workers in BUPRESTIDAE or leave the fate of the other family- and